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FLOOR DEBATE

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other boards that we currently have already in state statute, and most closely relates to the Grain Sorghum Board, which has the six districts as well as an at-large membership. So what we're trying to accomplish here is addressing the shift in population as far as wheat production, we're also trying to make sure that the Wheat Board is fairly represented from that standpoint as to the issues facing the Wheat Utilization Board and how they...how they handle those situations, and also trying to hold consistent with existing statutes. There is a committee amendment to the bill, and then there is also an amendment that I have proposed that will make a couple of changes. Since this was a bill from last session, we need to update the years on this and that will take care of that. And I will be more than willing to answer any questions. I know Senator Dierks will have an opportunity to speak as well, on the committee amendments as well. So I thank you for your time, appreciate your patience with this the other day, and we will see what happens. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. You've heard the opening on LB 474. Senator Dierks, Chairman of the Ag Committee, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Senator Erdman has explained in his opening that LB 474 reconfigures the districts for the Nebraska Wheat Development Board. As introduced, LB 474 would have established the qualification that the at-large member be from an area of the state where wheat is the predominantly grown crop. The committee amendments to the bill would omit this qualification as the committee felt that the appointment of the at-large member should be open to any qualified producer from the state rather than giving automatic extra representation to any one area of the state. The amendment provides for the assumption of representation of the new districts by the members serving in the current districts whose terms will expire according to their original appointment. As originally introduced, LB 474 would have required the appointment of a new District 6 and District 7 representative 90 days after the effective date of the bill. The District 6 representative's term was not scheduled to expire